

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 11 of page 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~It is an object~~ An aspect of the present invention is directed to provide ~~providing~~ a PVC switching control method which allows high speed changeover of a connection upon occurrence of/release from a trouble and is superior in reliability and maintenance facility and simple in control.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~In order to attain the object described above, according~~ According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a PVC switching control method for controlling a PVC connection in an ATM communication network, comprising the steps of setting a plurality of PVC connections and individually corresponding controlling connections between two ATM exchanges of the ATM communication network, and detecting, by each of the ATM exchanges, occurrence of and release from a trouble with and of a PVC connection corresponding to any of the controlling connections and switching an operative PVC connection to another one of the PVC connections in response to a result of the detection.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 15 of page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The controlling connections may be set by an operation administration and maintenance (OAM) function. Further, each of the ATM exchanges may detect a trouble through the fact that an alarm indication signal cell of the operation administration and maintenance function is inputted thereto or through the fact that a continuity check cell of the operation administration and maintenance function is not inputted thereto.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a PVC switching control method for controlling a PVC connection in an ATM communication network, comprising the steps of setting a master PVC connection and a master side operation administration and maintenance connection corresponding to the master PVC connection between a first ATM exchange and a second ATM exchange, setting a bypassing PVC connection prepared in advance for bypassing of the master PVC connection and a bypassing side operation administration and maintenance connection corresponding to the bypassing PVC connection between the first and second ATM exchanges, and switching, if both of the first and second ATM exchanges detect a trouble of the master PVC connection through the ~~maser~~ master side operation administration and maintenance connection, the PVC connection to the bypassing PVC connection by means of the first and second ATM exchanges.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 18 of page 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The PVC switching control method may be configured such that a plurality of repeating ATM exchanges are connected on a route of the bypassing PVC connection and a connection for forming the bypassing [[PCV]] PVC connection is set in each of the repeating ATM exchanges. In this instance, each of the first and second ATM exchanges may designate the connection set in advance and signal an ATM cell to a neighboring one of the plurality of repeating ATM exchanges through the designated connection.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Also where three or more PVC connections are set between two stations of an ATM communication network, switching between PVC connections and switching back between the [[PVW]] PVC connections can be executed by control for a single apparatus. Therefore, the control is simplified. Further, when a trouble occurs with and/or is eliminated from a circuit, a network manager need not perform PVC connection setting again. Therefore, maintenance is facilitated.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 25 of page 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The above and other ~~objects~~ aspects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description and the appended claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like parts or elements are denoted by like reference symbols.